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LOOKING FOR REMNANTS of the old Douglas Mill, archaeologists from Archaeological Research Services, Inc. are working at the mercury cleanup site on River Street. Vickie Clay of ARS said they found wooden and brick flooring and walls and either walkways or machine mounts also made of brick.

Archeological dig unearthing remnants of Douglas Mill

By Robert Perea

DAYTON--Despite all appearances from Highway 50, it's not a NASA experiment on the hillside above River Street in Dayton, it's a archaeological dig at the site of the River Street mercury cleanup by Archaeological Research Services, Inc. (ARS) of Virginia City.

The crews, wearing mercury-safe white suits, look from the road to be dressed like astronauts, but are instead looking for remnants of the old mills at the site.

Vickie Clay of ARS said the search has turned up some interesting information about the old Douglas Mill.

She said crews found flooring and walls buried on the hillside that appear to be from the old mill.

Included in the find are either brick walkways or machine mounts.

Clay said work will go on throughout the winter to look for more information.

She said the hillside will be leveled so it will be more stable, then trenching will be placed through the sidewalls of the hill.

Clay said not many artifacts are being found at the site, but what is being found can help archaeologists and historians understand how the old mills worked.

"Specifically we're looking for the external structure of the mill, and what kind of processes and chemicals they used," said Clay. "Not many millsites have been excavated, so we can get information

that isn't in historical records and help get the bigger picture."